TRAVANCORE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Thursday, 19th April, 1923.

(*OFFICIAL REPORT.*)

The Council met in the Victoria Jubilee Town Hall at Eleven Thirty-five of the Clock with the President in the Chair.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[*Order made by the President under Standing Order No. 12*—

(1) Printed copies of the questions and answers to be put and given at a meeting of the Council shall be placed on the Council table 15 minutes before the President takes his seat.

(2) The questions shall be put and answered in the following manner :—

The Secretary shall call the name of each interpellator in serial order, specify the serial number of his questions and make a sufficient pause to allow him a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place, if he is desirous of asking a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.]

Refund of Tea Duty.

238. MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the circumstances under which refund of duty in respect of Travancore tea has been allowed (*vide* Budget for 1098, V—Customs)? Is any refund allowed in respect of tea exported from the Travancore ports?

(*b*) Will the Government state the amount of the refunds allowed from the date of the imposition of this duty?

MR. N. NILAKANDA PILLAI: (*a*) Half the duty on Travancore tea exported through the British Indian ports is refunded to the British Indian Government in the interests of Travancore tea industry, on condition that that Government forgoes its right to levy a similar second duty at those ports on such tea. No refund of duty is allowed for tea exported from Travancore ports.

(*b*) The member is referred to the answer to Question No. 169 asked by Mr. T. M. Chitambaratanu Pillai at the meeting of the Council held on the 11th April, 1923.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Is there any other product in the export of which similar refund of duty is allowed?

MR. N. NILAKANDA PILLAI: No.

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[Mr. Paul V. Daniel.]

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: If so, what is the particular reason for according this special treatment in the case of the tea industry alone ?

MR. N. NILAKANDA PILLAI: I claim notice.

Tadivila on Puduvals.

239. THE REV. FR. KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI: Will the Government be pleased to state whether, in calculating the *tadivila* of trees standing on *puduval* lands, they will deduct the transport charges, etc., from the rates obtaining in the depôts, and charge *tadivila* only on such trees as can be utilised as timber, and not on those also that are only fit to be cut down and burnt on the spot ?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: The question of revising the rates of *tadivila* is engaging the attention of Government.

Increase of Grants to Libraries and Reading Rooms.

240. MR. PAUL V. DANIEL: Will the Government be pleased to increase the grants now awarded to the several recognised libraries and reading rooms?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: Each case must be decided on its merits and in conformity with the rules appended to G. O No. E. 2757, dated the 18th August, 1917.

Andipappan Kulam, Nagercoil.

241. MR. PAUL V. DANIEL: (1) Are the Government aware of the fact that the "Andipappan Kulam", opposite to the Clock Tower, Nagercoil, is in its present condition often a source of danger to public health?

(2) Will the Government be pleased to take the necessary steps to improve this tank which is near the busiest centre of the town ?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: (1) Some representations to that effect have been received.

(2) The question of the ownership of the tank is under investigation. The question of its improvement must await the disposal of the question of its ownership.

Grant of attested Copies of the Decisions of Tahsildars in Puduval cases.

242. MR. PAUL V. DANIEL: Will the Government be pleased to instruct the taluk authorities to issue attested copies of Tahsildars' decisions in *puduval* cases without unnecessary delay and also to

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